

FEBRUARY 2020 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We have started back at full pace and have a full schedule of networking sessions set out for the next two months. Our first event was a breakfast with ALP Leader Rebecca White telling us of her plans to improve training and skills in the region and this week we have Alicia van Ek of the Cancer Council telling us "where the money goes".

Thank you to those who participated in our event survey. It showed that whilst many prefer breakfast sessions there is a need for lunch and after work sessions plus sessions in Wynyard.

Future presenters are Tom Wootton, CEO of West by North West. On March 4th Tom will present the latest tourism strategy (just released). Neal Rodwell, CEO of disability support provider Northwest Support Services will talk to us at a breakfast in Wynyard on March 18 about the journey getting his organisation NDIS ready. On April 1st (no joke!) we will be hearing from Flightcentre Business Travel and we have a lucky door prize of a night at the soon to be opened *Hotel Verge* in Launceston.

After the successful sidewalk sell-out event I had a lot of folk asking me about the Promotions Committee. We are close to establishing the committee which will administer funds granted to us by the Burnie City Council to drive promotional activities around the city. I am reviewing the agreement and hope to finalise it next week. We have some good plans and welcome interested members to join the committee.

We are starting our third course in the Helping Burnie Works project next Monday and using *Workforce Development* run by Ken Dorsey to facilitate the employability training. The previous two courses have helped several long-term unemployed get into the workforce and proves the concept we have been exploring that small business performing training can have a profound impact on the unemployed.

In the next six weeks we have 14 cruise ships visiting with over 27,000 passengers and crew. Our cruise ship volunteers are performing well and deserve to be congratulated albeit I expect many of them are tiring of the busiest cruise ship season we have experienced.

One of the “elephants in the room” is the corona virus. The domestic economy in China is suffering and I expect that to extend to the rest of the world in the next few weeks. Factories have not reopened after the Chinese New Year holiday and are expected to remain closed for at least another 2-6 weeks. I can tell you from personal experience that this is hurting small businesses in China.

We will start to see this impact Australian businesses when supplies of components run out and finished products will not be rolling off the production line.

I had a call before 7 o'clock yesterday morning from one of the national executives of a large peak industry group asking me about my impressions of the supply chain impact. His organisation has members that can't complete orders for high value products because they don't have some of the necessary components that are manufactured in China and they cannot be sure of when they will receive their supplies.

This means they cannot complete their customer orders and he indicated some of his members are facing potential financial ruin because of this.

Likewise, consumable products such as packaging will not be available so food manufacture may be affected. Let's hope for a rapid cure

Until next month.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ian C Jones".

Ian Jones

President

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